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C.N.R.M.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MAUBERE RESISTANCE
CONSELHO NACIONAL DA RESISTENCIA MAUBERE

MEDIA RELEASE

EAST TIMORESE STUDENTS COMPLAIN OF SWEDISH EMBASSY HARASSMENT

THE FIRST COMMUNICATION FROM THE THREE EAST TIMORESE SEEKING REFUGE IN THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN JAKARTA HAS REACHED THE OUTSIDE WORLD EXACTLY ONE WEEK AFTER THEY ENTERED THE EMBASSY TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION FROM THE INDONESIAN MILITARY. THE STUDENTS ARE BEING PREVENTED BY THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES TO COMMUNICATE BY TELEPHONE OR FAX WITH ANYONE.

THE LETTER SIGNED BY FLORENCIO FERNANDES, JOSE M DE O SOUSA AND PORFIRIO DA COSTA OLIVEIRA, DATED 29 JUNE, SAYS:

> WE ARE IN POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION. THE THREE OF US IN THE SWEDISH EMBASSY ARE FACING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES. IN THE TIME WE HAVE BEEN HERE INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS OFTEN COME AND STAND OUTSIDE THE DOOR, THREATENING AND INSULTING US. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS BARRED THE PRESS ACCESS TO US.
>
> WE ARE BEING TERRORISED FROM ALL SIDES: NOT ONLY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO THE SWEDISH EMBASSY AND THE UNHCR IN JAKARTA.
>
> WE ARE NOT BEING TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR RIGHTS AS NOTED IN ARTICLES 14 AND 15 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION.
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> THE MILITARY AND THE SWEDISH EMBASSY CONSTANTLY TRY TO FORCE US TO SIGN THE STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE THAT THEY HAVE DRAWN UP ..... WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE OR AGREEMENT..... WE CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO DO SO. PLEASE HELP US TO LEAVE INDONESIA SAFELY.

THE STUDENTS COMPLAIN THAT THE UNHCR ALSO APPEAR TO WANT TO FORCE THEM TO SIGN THE STATEMENT AND REFUSES TO BE INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS TO OBTAIN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR THEM.

SPEAKING FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IN AUSTRALIA, CNRM SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE MR JOSE RAMOS HORTA HAS STRONGLY CRITICISED THE UNHCR FOR NOT INTERVENING AND FAILING TO FULFIL THEIR OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THESE THREE YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES ARE IN SUCH GREAT DANGER. "IT IS ALSO OBVIOUS THAT SWEDISH AUTHORITIES PLACE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE MURDEROUS INDONESIAN MILITARY REGIME ABOVE THEIR HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATIONS", HE ADDED.

HORTA APPEALS TO THE UNHCR AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO URGENTLY SEEK SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF INDONESIA FOR THE THREE STUDENTS. HE ALSO APPEALS TO SWEDEN TO ACT ACCORDING TO THE NOBLE REPUTATION AS A PROTECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS IT HAS EARNED IN THE PAST.

HORTA ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT ALMOST ONE WEEK AFTER FOUR STUDENTS LEFT THE FINNISH EMBASSY IN JAKARTA, REPORTEDLY AFTER "AGREEING" TO ACCEPT INDONESIAN "GUARANTEES" FOR THEIR SAFETY, NO ONE HAS HAD ACCESS TO THEM TO INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRM THAT THEY ARE SAFE. ON THE CONTRARY, MEDIA STATEMENTS HAVE QUOTED SOME OF THEM INSISTING IN THEIR DESIRE TO LEAVE INDONESIA. SOURCES IN JAKARTA ALSO CLAIM THAT THEY ARE BEING CONSTANTLY HARASSED BY INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL. HORTA ADDED THAT FINLAND MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF THESE STUDENTS.

30 JUNE 1993 16:00 HRS

FURTHER INFORMATION:
MARGHERITA TRACANELLI CNRM MEDIA DIRECTOR
PHONE : +61 2 369 2676, FAX: + 61 2 389 2488